

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00931 030957Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----006094 031203Z /46

R 030831Z MAY 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6110
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0931

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, AF, IZ
SUBJECT: SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN HORN: AN IRAQI VIEW

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 0913, (B) STATE 46020, (C) BAGHDAD 0871.

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SOUNDS ALARM
OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN HORN. END SUMMARY

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY COUNSELOR HADDAWI DREW USINT
POLITICAL OFFICER INTO CORNER AT SOCIAL OCCASION FOR
A SURPRISINGLY FRANK AIRING OF IRAQI WORRY OVER HORN OF
AFRICA. HADDAWI INTRODUCED THE SUBJECT BY ASKING
ABOUT USG POLICY TOWARD INDIAN OCEAN. POLOFF BRIEFED
HIM ON STATUS OF US-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS, CONCLUDING
WITH CAVEAT THAT CURRENT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN
AND ASSOCIATED INCREASE OF THEIR NAVAL FORCES ARE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00931 030957Z

INCONSISTENT WITH THESE TALKS (REF B).

3. HADDAWI RESPONDED BY EXPRESSING SURPRISE THAT
USG WAS ALLOWING SOVIETS AND CUBANS TO INCREASE PRESENCE
IN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY IN STRATEGIC AREAS OF HORN. HE
SUGGESTED USG NO LONGER CARED MUCH ABOUT AFRICA.

4. AFTER LETTING HADDAWI TAKE CONVERSATIONAL LEAD, POLOFF NOTED USG HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT SOVIET UNION'S LARGER INTERESTS IN DETENTE COULD NOT BE UNAFFECTED BY LACK OF SOVIET RESTRAINT IN OTHER AREAS. IT WAS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, FOR AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES TO TUE A STAND AGAINST THE ENCROACHMENTS OF SOVIETS AND THEIR CUBAN CLIENTS. IRAQ HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND CUBANS, AND IT WAS NATURAL TO ASK WHY IRAQ DID NOT USE ITS INFLUENCE TO OBTAIN THEIR WITHDRAWAL. WHEREAS SOVIET PRESENCE IN HORN AFFECTED USG INTERESTS INDIRECTLY, IT AFFECTED IRAIS DIRECTLY. IRAQI PRESS, HOWEVER, NEVER EVEN MENTIONED PRESENCE OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA.

5. HADDAWI SAID IRAQ HAD TO BE VERY CAREFUL HOW IT HANDLED RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS. PEOPLE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE, HE SAID, VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN HORN. WHILE IRAQ HAS BEEN PUBLICLY SILENT, IT HAS MADE ITS VIEWS FELT. OGADEN SITUATION HAD BEEN AMBIGUOUS AND SOMALI ACTIONS UNWISE, BUZ IRAQ KNOWS SOVIETS SEEK PERMANENT PRESENCE ON RED SEA. AT THIS POINT, CONVERSATION BROKE OFF AS OTHER DIPLOMATS JOINED US.

6. COMMENT: HADDAWI WAS SPEAKING IN HIGHLY INFORMAL MANNER. IF WE HAD RAISED ISSUE OF HORN AS PART OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00931 030957Z

OUR FORMAL SOUNDINGS ON NONALIGNED ISSUES (REF C), HE WOULD LIKELY HAVE REACTED WITH THE KIND OF GUARDED SUSPICION WHICH HE SHOWED ON THAT OCCASION. NONETHELESS, HADDAWI PROBABLY REFLECTED GENUINE IRAQI CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET MOTIVES IN THE HORN. WE CONTINUE TO BEWUEVE THAT IRAQ WILL RESIST DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE AT FORTHCOMING NONALIGNED CONFEJENCE, WHERE HADDAWI WILL BE NUMBER TWO ON DELEGATION. TACTICAL ALLIANCE WITH CUBA PLAYS TOO GREAT A ROLE IN IRAQI APPROACH TO NAM. NONETHELESS, IRAQ IS LIKELY TO MOVE IN DIRECTION OF GREATER CRITICISM OF SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN HORN. INITIATIVE OF NORMALLY SUPER CAUTIOUS IRAQI DIPLOMAT TO SPEAK SO OPENLY TO AN AMERICAN IS ONE MEASURE OF IRAQI UNHAPPINESS. ERITREA DOES NOT HAVE STATUS OF SACRED CAUSE ACCORDED TO PALESTINE, BUT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT HAS PLAINLY GOT IRAQIS UPSET.
PECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA00931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0576
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805100/aaaadgvt.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 382b4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BAGHDAD 913, 78 STATE 46020, 78 BAGHDAD 871
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2509830
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN HORN: AN IRAQI VIEW
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, AF, IZ, CU, ET, SO, DJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/382b4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014